

**Minutes of Meeting  
Planning Committee, Vancouver Park Board**

**DATE OF MEETING:** June 5, 2007

**ATTENDEES: Park Board Commissioners**  
Commissioner Heather Holden, Chair

**Park Board Staff**

Piet Rutgers	Director of Planning and Operation
Greg Eng	Manager of Recreation Services, Stanley District
Booth Palmer	Child and Youth Services Coordinator
Barbara Joughin	Committee Secretary

**Guest**

Dan Marriott	Coordinator, Community Schools Teams, Vancouver School Board
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The meeting started at 7:00 pm, with the following Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes of May 8, 2007 Meeting
2. School Community Connections Pilot Project

**1. Approval of Minutes of May 8, 2007 meeting**

Approval of the minutes of the May 8, 2007 meeting was deferred to the next meeting in the absence of quorum.

**2. School Community Connections Pilot Project**

Staff provided a presentation on a joint pilot project of the Vancouver School Board (VSB) and the Vancouver Park Board, School Community Connections.

Greg Eng explained that this partnership will increase the use of secondary school gymnasiums on Saturdays from September to March with physical activity programming. It will formalize existing informal working relationships between school and community centre staff.

Booth Palmer told the Committee that a BC Ministry of Education initiative provides \$10 million to promote the use of schools by the community. The funds are allocated to all school districts in BC to explore a range of parallel uses of school facilities (gyms, classrooms, kitchens, computer rooms) in a formal, supported partnership to show collaborative use of schools. The intended outcomes are improved health, better use of school space, and possible future collaboration on related programs.

Staff explained that the project is managed jointly by VSB and Park Board senior staff. It is administered and marketed by community centre staff, and stakeholders (PACs, Community Associations) are represented on an advisory committee. The program is delivered in three phases. In Phase 1, VSB and Park Board staff researched and developed Phase 2. Phase 2 will run from September 2007 through to March 2008. Two school/community centre partnerships are in place. Windermere Secondary School will work with Renfrew Park Community Centre and King George Secondary will work with the West End Community Centre. \$20,000 is available to each site for rental fees and staff costs.

Schools are under-utilized on weekends during the school year. School gyms are attractive to user groups because they are much larger than community centre gyms, but high rental fees are a barrier to many groups. During the pilot project, user groups will pay a flat fee of \$550, and program fees will be collected. Activities can include non-instructional sports, movement, dance, music, family gym programs, table tennis, court games, etc.

Net revenues will be applied back into the program to fund its long range sustainability.

In Phase 3, the results of Phase 2 will be reviewed. It will measure how well the needs of the users and the partners have been met, as well as the project's sustainability. The project will be adjusted as needed and expanded to two or more other schools during the period from September 2008 to March 2009.

Booth Palmer explained that Park Board staff are working closely with VSB staff and introduced Dan Marriott, Community Schools Team Coordinator to the Committee.

Dan Marriott said this is an opportunity to formalize the relationships that are already in place informally between community centres and schools. He said there is a high demand for floor space in Vancouver, and the pilot project must ensure that programming for the school spaces will be locally driven and meet community needs.

#### Discussion

- The Committee asked how this opportunity will be communicated to the community. It will be promoted through the community centre program guides and the first round will be highlighted as a new program. A member of the Committee suggested that the media be informed about the project and the partnership between the VSB and the Park Board.
- The group discussed that the pilot project will be monitored for its economic viability. The results will indicate if there is sufficient demand for the new floor space, what kind of programs are successful, and the cost of additional use of the equipment and facilities. An effort will be made to more fully utilize school staff by providing both educational and physical activity programs in the schools at the same time.
- Staff need to clarify how much space the rental fee covers to determine whether it is feasible to run parallel educational and physical activity programs.
- A member of the Committee asked how fees will be determined. The group discussed the importance of making sure the project is self-supporting and responsive to the programming needs of the community. The fee structure must be comparable to the market, and community centre programmers are drafting which programs will be offered.
- About 50% of the available grant money has been allocated to different school districts in the province. Vancouver will apply for the second round of funding to expand the program, and staff may be able to develop a model that can be shared with other municipalities.

#### Next Steps

The Planning Committee received the presentation on the School Community Connections Pilot Project for information. The Chair will update the Board about the project at its next regular meeting. Staff will report back in spring 2008 on the results of Phase 2.

### **3. Next meeting**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm. The next meeting will be on July 10, 2007 at 7:00 pm.